

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 STR-08 CEA-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /195 W

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R 121400Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7171

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 0098/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, TO, PFOR

SUBJ: TOGOLESE PHOSPHATES: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. LOME 0086(NOTAL); B. LOME 0090 (NOTAL);

C. LOME 0075 (NOTAL)

1. AFTER PRESIDENT'S SPEECH EVENING 10 JANUARY, SOUND TRUCKS VISITED ALL PARTS OF CITY CALLING PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE AT RPT BUILDING AT 0530 MORNING 11 JANUARY TO THANK PRESIDENT FOR HIS ACTIONS IN DENOUNCING PHOSPHATE AGREEMENT AND INCREASING WAGES BY 10 PERCENT. LARGE CROWD DID ASSEMBLE AND PRESIDENT ADDRESSED TO THEM ONE OF HIS RARE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECHES. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT HEAR IT, IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "VIOLENT." I DID HEAR PARTIAL REPEAT ON RADIO IN WHICH CROWD WAS

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APPLAUDING PRESIDENT. IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE

FOR NORMALLY GENTLE AND FRIENDLY LOMEANS. KINDEST WORD I COULD USE FOR WHAT I HEARD IS "WILD."

2. SANITIZED VERSION OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO CROWD APPEARED IN TOGO-PRESSE THIS MORNING, 12 JANUARY. IN THEM HE DESCRIBED TOGO'S STRUGGLE TO INCREASE ITS PARTICIPATION IN CTMB FROM 1 PERCENT IN 1957 TO 35 PERCENT IN 1972. HE CHARGED COMPANY WITH BAD FAITH AND DECEIT, AND FINALLY THIS YEAR WITH SEEKING TO AVOID RAISING PHOSPHATE PRICES. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT COMPANY WAS APPROACHED BY MOROCCANS WITH SUGGESTION THAT PRICES BE INCREASED BUT STUBBORNLY REFUSED. FINALLY MOROCCANS APPEALED DIRECTLY TO TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT AND IT WAS ONLY THEN THAT CTMB OFFICIALS AGREED TO TRIPLE PRICES. EVEN THEN THEY FAILED TO INFORM TOGO OFFICIALLY, ACTING AS IF THEY WERE STILL DEALING WITH A COLONY, AND FINALLY WHEN TOGO WAS ABLE TO LOOK AT 1974 SALES CONTRACTS IT DISCOVERED THAT CTMB HAD REFUSED TO EMPLOY "OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED PRICE."

3. CTMB MANAGER SALESSE IS TOTALLY RESIGNED TO GOT ACTION, WHICH, AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, IS AS THOROUGH A STEP AS NATIONALIZATION, EVEN IF WITHOUT LATTER'S ONUS. HE POINTS OUT GOT CAN, IF IT WISHES, REQUIRE COMPANY TO SELL PRODUCT TO NEW TOGOLESE OFFICE OF PHOSPHATES (OTP) AT COST, THUS RESERVING ENTIRE PROFITS TO ITSELF. ACTUALLY WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING AT THIS POINT WHETHER GOT WILL ALLOW A REASONABLE PROFIT TO CTMB, OF WHICH IT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY OBTAIN 51 PERCENT ITSELF BECAUSE OF ITS NEW SHAREHOLDINGS.

4. I SHOULD NOTE HERE, INCIDENTALLY, ONE POINT IN EYADEMA'S DEC 10 SPEECH WHICH REQUIRES CLARIFICATION. PRESIDENT SAID GOT ASSUMING 51 PERCENT OWNERSHIP BY VIRTUE OF PROVIDING RAW PHOSPHATE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH "MINING REGULATIONS NOW IN EFFECT." WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE IDENTIFY THIS PROVISION OF MINING REGULATIONS. SALESSE SAYS IT REFERS TO NEW REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED LATE LAST YEAR, BUT ARGUES IT SHOULD AFFECT ONLY NEW ENTERPRISES, WITH OLD ONES HAVING RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE ACTION SO SERIOUSLY MODIFYING THEIR EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH GOT. I SHALL SEEK SALESSE'S HELP IN IDENTIFYING THIS FEATURE OF REGULATIONS.

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5. SALESSE GLOOMILY PREDICTS FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL DO NOTHING ABOUT CTMB'S PREDICAMENT, LAMENTING THAT FRENCH AID LEVELS WILL NO DOUBT REMAIN JUST AS THEY ARE. I SAW FRENCH AMBASSADOR CAMPREDON BRIEFLY THIS MORNING AT AIRPORT DURING MOBUTU'S ARRIVAL FOR JANUARY 13 FESTIVITIES. HE HAD SPENT ENTIRE MORNING TRYING TO PREVENT (HE BELIEVES UNSUCCESSFULLY) EXPULSION FROM TOGO OF AFP CORRESPONDENT CAZAUX WHO UNFORTUNATELY USED WORD "NATIONALIZATION" IN HIS DISPATCHES TO DESCRIBE

EYADEMA'S ACTION. CAMPREDON CLAIMS HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT ON DENUNCIATION OF AGREEMENT WITH CTMB.

6. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT'S TWIN ACTIONS OF DENOUNCING AGREEMENT AND RAISING SALARIES HAVE GIVEN HIM SUDDEN POPULARITY, PERHAPS REACHING, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT, A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ANY HE HAS ATTAINED BEFORE. EVEN SOME EDUCATED TOGOLESE, WHO REGRET HIS ATTACKS ON IMPERIALISM AND ALLEGED EXPLOITATION BY WHITES, CANNOT HELP SHOWING THEIR PLEASURE IN HIS ACTIONS, WHICH SO FAVORABLY AFFECT THEM FINANCIALLY. A FASCINATING ASPECT OF THIS ENTIRE EXERCISE IS NUMBER OF UNMISTAKABLE INDICATIONS THAT PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING ANNOUNCING, IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 13 CELEBRATION, SOME MOBUTU-LIKE AFRICANIZATION MEASURES (REF C). HIS JANUARY 10 SPEECH HAD AS BASIC THESIS THE ARGUMENT THAT POLITICAL LIBERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC LIBERATION. ALTHOUGH HE DEVELOPED ONLY THE THEME OF ECONOMIC LIBERATION, WHICH HE HIGHLIGHTED BY HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING CTMB AND SALARIES, HE NEVERTHELESS EXPANDED SOMEWHAT ON CULTURAL LIBERATION, SAYING "TO LIBERATE OUR MINDS IS TO RETURN TO AFRICAN SOURCES, IT IS TO LIBERATE OURSELVES FROM IDEOLOGY OR EXAMPLES DERIVED FROM ABROAD, WHICH ARE ADAPTED NEITHER TO OUR MEANS NOR TO OUR SOUL, AND WHICH FINALLY FETTER OUR BLOSSOMING AND OBSTRUCT OUR DEVELOPMENT."

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 STR-08 CEA-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 099771

R 121400Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E. O. 11652: GDS
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7. ONE TOGOLESE LABOR LEADER TO WHOM I HAVE TALKED WAS
CONSULTED DURING PAST WEEK CONCERNING HIS VIEWS ON CHANGING
NAMES OF LOME AND TOGO, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS' CHRISTIAN NAMES.
HE AND HIS LABOR COLLEAGUE HAD OPPOSED THESE MEASURES, BUT WHEN
I ASKED HIM IF HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT, HE
AVERTED HIS GAZE AND SAID NOT NOW. DESPITE THIS, I THINK THERE
IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY PRES*DENT WILL MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME
SUCH MEASURES, POSSIBLY AT LUNCHEON HE IS GIVING FOR MOBUTU
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AFTER PARADE ON SUNDAY 13 JANUARY. A DESIRE NOT TO DETRACT
FROM IMPACT OF HIS ECONOMIC ANNOUNCEMENTS COULD EXPLAIN HIS
CHRONOLOGICAL SEPARATION OF THEM FROM HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF
MEASURES TO BE TAKEN UNDER HEADING OF CULTURAL LIBERATION.
MOREOVER, IMPACT OF CERTAIN RE-AFRICANIZATION MEASURES OF
DOUBTFUL POPULARITY WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOFTENED BY HIGHLY
POPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES. WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT DOES CHOOSE
JANUARY 13 AS OCCASION TO FOLLOW MOBUTU'S ROAD TO AUTHENTI-
CITY, I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT IT IS COMING TO TOGO. ONE
ADDITIONAL STRAW IN WIND IS THAT BOTH DAILY PRESS AND
PARADE-ROUTE BANNERS HAVE DROPPED CUSTOMARY "ETIENNE" AND ARE
NOW REFERRING TO PRESIDENT AS GENERAL GNASSINGBE EYADEMA."
THE ENORMITY OF THIS CHANGE IS UNDERLINED BY FACT THAT MERE
TWO YEARS AGO SIMILAR BANNER, PLAYING ON ZAIRE PRESIDENT'S
EUROPEAN NAMES, CHARMINGLY PROCLAIMED: "MOBUTU, VOUS ETES
DESIREE AU TOGO."
DICKINSON

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